

### Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-7 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus comprising:

a developer ~~developing~~ container for containing developer including toner and carrier; ~~carrier, and developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member;~~

a first carrying member, provided in said developer container, for carrying the developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member;

a second carrying member, provided in said developer container, member for rotating to carry carrying the developer in a rotation axial direction of said second carrying member; in said developing container;

a developer supplying device, which supplies said developer container with supplemental developer including toner and carrier; and

a discharge opening, [[port]] provided in an area of said developer developing container in which the developer is carried by said second carrying member, for discharging out of said developer container through said discharge opening therethrough any excess developer resulting from a supply of the supplemental developer,

wherein a developer carrying capability in the rotation axial direction of said second carrying member is greater in an area near said discharge opening [[port]] than in an area downstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in a carrying direction of the developer.

2. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developer carrying capability of said second carrying member is set so that a level of the developer in the area near said discharge opening [[port]] may be lower than that in a contour portion of said second carrying member and that a level of the developer in the area downstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in the carrying direction of the developer may be higher than the [[a]] contour portion of said second carrying member.

3. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said second carrying member has a spiral wing portion provided on a rotary shaft, and an agitating rib provided on said rotary shaft, and said agitating rib is not provided in the area near said discharge opening, [[port,]] but is provided in the area downstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in the carrying direction of the developer.

4. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developer carrying capability of said second carrying member is greater in the area near said discharge opening [[port]] than in an area upstream of said discharge opening [[port]] in the carrying direction of the developer.

5. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the developer carrying capability of said second carrying member is set so that a level of the developer in the area near said discharge opening [[port]] may be lower than that in a contour portion of said second carrying member and that a level of the developer

in the areas upstream and downstream of said discharge opening ~~[[port]]~~ in the carrying direction of the developer may be higher than that in the contour portion of said second carrying member.

6. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said second carrying member has on a rotary shaft a spiral wing portion for carrying the developer, and an agitating rib is provided on said rotary shaft except for the area near said discharge opening. ~~[[port.]]~~

7. (Currently Amended) A developing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 4, wherein said developer developing container has a developing chamber in which said first carrying member is provided, ~~for developing the electrostatic image on said image bearing member~~, and an agitating chamber provided with said second carrying member and said discharge opening. ~~[[port,]]~~ a developer circulating route being constituted between said agitating chamber and said developing chamber.